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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 193418~~STATUS~~~~LIMDIS~~--FOR CHRG'S CHAPLIN

CORRECTED COPY (PARA 11, LINES 2,3)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AG

SUBJECT: DERIAN MEETING WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. SUMMARY: HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR MET WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR ON AUGUST 10. THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHO HAD REQUESTED THE MEETING. THE MINISTER STRESSED HIS DUTY IN PROTECTING THE MAJORITY OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE IN A TIME OF WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION, MRS. DERIAN STRESSED THAT THE TIME HAD NOW ARRIVED FOR A RETURN TO DUE PROCESS.

2. MRS. DERIAN STARTED BY EXPLAINING TO THE MINISTER THAT SHE WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAD DISAPPEARED, THE NUMBER IN JAIL WITHOUT CHARGES, THE NUMBER WHICH IS SIMPLY LOST AND THE NUMBER FOUND INNOCENT,

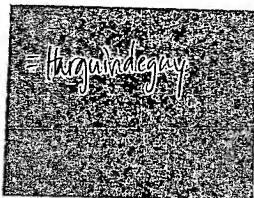
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PAGE 02 STATE 193418

WHO REMAIN IN JAIL. SHE SAID IT APPEARS THAT ONCE A PERSON IS PICKED UP IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET RELEASED. SHE REFERRED TO THE HARD FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM, STATING THAT SHE THOUGHT THE BACK OF THE TERRORISTS HAD NOW BEEN BROKEN. SHE WORRIED THAT WHEN A WIDE NET IS CAST MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE GET CAUGHT. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE CHIEF OBSTACLE FOR RETURNING TO NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IS OUR CONCERN FOR THE MASS OF PEOPLE CAUGHT IN THE SYSTEM WITH NOTHING HAPPENING. SHE CITED PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR JACOBOTIMMERMAN AS A PERSON WHO HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF THIS PROBLEM. SHE NOTED THAT WHEN SHE TALKS WITH HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THEY SPEAK OF REGULARIZING PROCEDURES, BUT THAT WHEN SHE TALKS TO INDIVIDUALS IT APPEARS THAT THESE PLANS AREN'T BEING CARRIED OUT IN PRACTICE.

3. THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT HER PREOCCUPATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE PERSON ARE NO LESS THAN THE RESPONSIBILITY THE GOA HAS FOR INTERNAL SECURITY. HE SAID THE GOA WAS FIGHTING AN UNDECLARED WAR AND OPERATING UNDER THE EXCEPTIONS GRANTED BY THE CONSTITUTION. HE SAID THIS PERMITTED THE GOVERNMENT TO SHIFT PEOPLE FROM ONE PLACE TO THE OTHER UNLESS THEY EXERCISED THE RIGHT OF OPTION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS RIGHT WAS SUSPENDED BECAUSE THE GOVERN-

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MOTHERS AND WIVES JOIN TOGETHER IN THE PLAZA EVERY THURSDAY AND CALL ON DIFFERENT OFFICES, INCLUDING THAT IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, SEEKING INFORMATION ON THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. SHE ALSO REFERRED TO LABOR LEADERS IN JAIL SINCE 1975.

5. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE TOO HAD TALKED TO WOMEN WHOSE FAMILY MEMBERS DISAPPEARED AND THAT THERE WAS AN OFFICE IN HIS MINISTRY TO DEAL WITH THEIR INQUIRIES. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF THESE WOMEN JOINED TOGETHER IN CONCERTED ACTION AND, IN EFFECT, ARE DEMONSTRATING WITHOUT A PERMIT, THAT THIS WOULD BE AGAINST THE LAW. HE ASKED MRS. DERIAN TO CONSIDER THE CAUSES FOR DISAPPEARANCES.

6. SHE SAID SHE HAD HEARD THEM MANY TIMES AND HAD SEEN A BIG BOOK, THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD THE GOA'S PROBLEM WITH TERRORISM BUT DID NOT UNDERSTAND A GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD NOT FURNISH THE NAMES OF THE TERRORISTS.

7. THE MINISTER REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT THOSE DETAINED WERE IN NORMAL JAILS AND THAT ARGENTINE JAILS WERE OPEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (ICRC). HE SHOWED HER, BUT DID NOT GIVE HER, COPIES IN SPANISH OF ICRC REPORTS. MRS. DERIAN SPECULATED THAT PRISONERS MIGHT BE HELD IN OTHER PLACES WHICH THE RED CROSS HAS NOT SEEN. THE MINISTER SAID THEY LET THE RED CROSS GO WHEREVER IT WANTS, INCLUDING TO MILITARY INSTITUTIONS. HE SAID THERE WERE NO CONCENTRATION CAMPS. ASKED ABOUT THE NAVY MECHANICAL SCHOOL, HE SAID PEOPLE MIGHT BE HELD FOR INTERROGATION IN SUCH PLACE BUT WOULD NOT BE JAILED THERE. HE SAID SUBVERSIVES ARE JAILED IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS.

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12. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE COMMENT AND INDICATE DISTRIBUTION. VANCE

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Declassified Case: 174-57067 Date: 08-04-2013

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~~LIMA05~~ - FOR MR SCOTT, PASS DEP. ASST. SEC. DALLEY

FOL RPT STATE 193418 ACTION BUENOS AIRES 15 AUG 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L S T A T E 193418

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AG

SUBJECT: DERIAN MEETING WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR

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Declassified Case: 10X-5705 Date: 06-24-2013

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~~LIMITS~~ - FOR IO DEPUTY. ASSIST. SECY DALLEY

POL RPT STATE 193418 ACTION LIMA 24 AUG 77 QUOTE

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FOL RPT STATE 193418 ACTION BUENOS AIRES 15 AUG 77 QUOTE

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MRS. DERIAN RESPONDED THAT SHE WOULD LIKE THE MINISTER TO  
SEE HIM, THAT SHE HAD SEEN HIM ON A PREVIOUS VISIT BECAUSE  
HE REPRESENTED A DIFFERENT AND RESPECTED POINT OF VIEW,  
THAT HE HAD DEFENDED THE GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME AND THAT  
HIS EDITORIALS MANIFESTED THAT SUPPORT. THE MINISTER AGREED.  
MRS.. DERIAN ADDED THAT NOT TEN DAYS AFTER SHE SAW  
Timmerman HE WAS ARRESTED, THAT CHARGES HAVE NOT YET BEEN  
BROUGHT AGAINST HIM AND THAT HE HAS BEEN MOVED FROM JAIL  
TO JAIL AND HIS HEALTH HAS SUFFERED GREATLY.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE COMMENT AND INDICATE  
DISTRIBUTION. VANCE

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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